HAER
ILL.
81-ROCIL
3/61-

Rock Island Arsenal
B-D Connection
(Building 61)
Rodman Avenue and First Street
Rock Island
Rock Island County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-20-Q

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL
B-D CONNECTION
(Building 61)
HAER No. IL-20Q

Location:	Rodman Avenue and First Street, Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Rock Island County, Illinois UTM: 15.704770.4599020 Quad: Davenport East
Date of Construction:	1917-1918
Present Owner and Occupant:	U.S. Army
Present Use:	Administrative offices
Significance:	Although Rock Island Arsenal was designated an ordnance manufacturing installation during the Civil War, it was not until World War I that all of the stone Greek Revival shops on Rodman Avenue were fully outfitted with production machinery. To facilitate material handling between the shops, the arsenal command in 1917-1918 authorized the construction of four connecting links that matched the architectural detailing of the older buildings. The B-D Connection joined Shops B and D (see HAER Nos. IL-20A, IL-20B). Part of the Rock Island Arsenal National Register Historic District, the building embodied an equal concern for utilitarian and aesthetic considerations that became increasingly rare during subsequent wartime construction programs.
Historian:	Jeffrey A. Hess, February 1985
Architectural Historian:	David Arbogast, February 1985

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: According to the arsenal's official Completion Report for World-War-I construction, the "B-D Connection [was] started 7-1-17, completed 5-24-18" (p. 3).

2. Architect: Stone and Webster Company of Boston (Completion Report, p. 3).

3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army.

4. Builder, contractor, supplier: Stone and Webster Company served as general contractor (Completion Report, p. 3). Much of the stone came from demolished portions of Shops B and D (Interview with Bouilly).

5. Original plans and construction: The Rock Island Arsenal Engineering Plans and Services Division has microfiche copies of original elevations prepared by Stone and Webster in 1917. The drawings note that "new stone is to be rock faced or tooled to correspond with stone on present buildings." The drawing for the south elevation shows a three-story, seven-bay facade connecting original single bays of the pavilions of Shops B and D. The original construction is documented by a 1945 photograph in the picture collection of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office, captioned "43-A / Looking north at 'B-D' Annex Building No. 61 / 19 March 1945" (see HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-3). The present configuration conforms to the original construction.

The drawing for the north elevation also shows a three-story, seven-bay facade connecting original single bays of the pavilions of Shops B and D. On the first two stories below an entablature, the bays are defined by pilasters, which frame window spaces a full two stories in height. Early photographs documenting the original construction have not been located. But a 1944 photograph (see HAER Photo No. IL-20R-4) of an identically designed building connecting Shops H and K indicates that the north facade of Connection B-D was constructed as planned. According to this photograph, the tall window spaces were infilled with extended blocks of industrial steel sash. The facade's present configuration conforms to original construction, although the steel sash has been replaced by concrete block and irregularly spaced aluminum sash.

6. Alterations and additions: About 1979, the steel sash on the north elevation was infilled with concrete block and aluminum sash. (Interview with Bouilly).

   In 1981, the original limestone cornice and eaves were replaced with a fiberglass material painted tan to simulate the original stonework. The Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office has a 1981 photograph documenting an identical alteration completed at the same time on the adjoining Shop B. The photograph is captioned on the back, "Building 60, looking NW, cornice repair, 20 Feb. 81."

B. Historical Context:

In 1917, the arsenal command authorized the construction of connecting links between four pairs of nineteenth-century manufacturing shops on Rodman Avenue. Designed and built by Stone and Webster Company of Boston, the four new buildings displayed the same stone, Greek Revival architecture of the older structures (see also HAER Nos. IL-20R, IL-20S, IL-20T). Completed in 1918, Building B-D joined Shops B and D. Originally used for storage and shop space, the building currently houses administrative offices. It has been designated as "Building 61" at least since World War II (see HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-3; for further documentation, see HAER No. IL-20).

Prepared by: Jeffrey A. Hess
MacDonald and Mack Partnership
February 1985

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building is a late Greek Revival style, rectangular, limestone structure with elevations salvaged from the adjacent pavilions of Buildings 60 and 62. As a result, its exterior detailing matches those buildings, although its interior reflects its later construction date. It is two-and-one-half stories tall with a full basement and a gabled roof sheltering an attic. Serving as one of four similar connecting links for the ten stone shops, it effectively recedes into the background of its more illustrious neighbors.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is well-maintained and is in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The rectangular building meaaures 90' (7 bays on its north and south elevations) x 55'. It is two-and-one-half stories tall with a full basement and attic.

2. Foundations: Poured, reinforced concrete foundations carry a dressed ashlar limestone water table.

3. Walls: The south elevation (HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-1) is reinforced concrete with rock-faced ashlar limeatone veneer salvaged from the adjoining pavilions of Buildings 60 and 62. The north elevation (HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-2) is painted concrete block. Colossal rock-faced ashlar limestone pilasters (HAER Photo Nos. IL-20Q-1 and IL-20Q-2) rising from the water table to the entsblature divide both elevations into a regular bay system. The dressed limestone entablature (HAER Photo Nos. IL-20Q-1 and IL-20Q-2) carries a projecting cornice (originslly dressed limestone) of tsn fiberglass simulating limestone.

4. Structural systems: The bearing walls are reinforced concrete on the aouth, concrete block on the north, and brick on the east and west. The basement, first, and second floors contain reinforced concrete piers 20' on-center. First, second, and attic floor systems are poured, reinforced concrete. The roof system is steel beams.

5. Porches: Porchea (HAER Photo Nos. IL-20Q-1 and IL-20Q-2) are centered in the north and south elevations. They are quite simple, being reinforced concrete with plain steel pipe railings painted black.

6. Light wells: Across the south elevation there is a narrow window well (HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-1) with rock-faced ashlar limestone walla to grade.

7. Openings:

   a. Doorways: The doorwsy facing the south porch (HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-1) has a rock-faced limestone segmental-arched head with a rock-faced keystone, rock-faced limestone jambs, and poured concrete sills. It contains a pair of modern glass doors with transom in raw aluminum framing. The doorway which once faced the north porch (HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-2) has been removed, leaving only the porch fronting it.

   b. Windows: Typical first- and second-floor south elevation window openings (HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-1) contain six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash and have rock-faced limestone jambs,

cut limestone sills and flat lintels. These windows matcb the original windows of Buildings 60 and 62. Tbe firat- and second-floor north elevation window openings (HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-2) contain small, tbree-light, aluminum, combination sash irregulsrly located across the elevation. The attic window openings (HAER Photo Nos. IL-20Q-1 and IL-20Q-2) contain single-light, casement, wood sash and have rock-faced limestone jsmbs and lintels and sills formed by the frieze and entablature and are arranged in pairs in the building entablature. The basement window openings (HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-1) typically contain three-over-three, double-hung, wood sash, and have rock-faced limestone jambs, lintels formed by the water table, and dressed limestone sill blocks. All wood sash are painted white.

8. Roof

a. Shape, covering: The roof (HAER Photo Nos. IL-20Q-1 and IL-20Q-2) is a gable form covered with standing seam metal roofing.

b. Cornice, eaves: The cornice and eaves (HAER Photo Nos. IL-20Q-1 and IL-20Q-2) are fiberglass painted tan to simulate the original limestone cornice and eaves. The interior metal gutter system is tied to exterior metsl leaders which lead to an underground drainage system.

c. Ventilators: There is a pair of two round, sheet-metal ventilators (HAER Photo Noa. IL-20Q-1 and IL-20Q-2) spaced equally along the ridge of the roof.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Although the building has two stories with a basement and an attic, it has no staira or elevstors. Acceas between floors is provided via adjacent stairs in the adjoining pavilions of Buildings 60 and 62.

a. Basement: The basement is a center hall plan area with open and enclosed storage rooms.

b. First floor: The first floor contains a U-plan hallwsy running along tbe south front from the centers of tbe east and west ends of the building. It serves a complex of rooms forming the credit union.

c. Second floor: The second floor haa a center hall flanked by offices.

d. Attic: The attic is an open plan area.

2. Flooring: Basement flooring is poured concrete with a sealer applied to it. The first floor has poured concrete flooring covered with linoleum tile. The second floor has wood flooring covered with linoleum tile. The attic has wood flooring covered with carpeting.

3. Wall and ceiling finishes: Outer basement walls are painted rock-faced ashlar limestone on the south elevation and painted concrete block on the north elevation. The reinforced concrete piers are painted. Interior partition walls are painted concrete block. The ceiling is exposed snd painted reinforced concrete atructural beams and slab.

   Outer first- and second-floor south walls are painted rock-faced limestone and outer north walls are painted concrete block. First-floor offices are enclosed with psinted gypsum board partitions and second-floor offices have demountable partitions. The ceilings are suspended acoustical tile.

   The outer attic wslls are painted rock-faced ashlar limestone. Interior partition walls are demountable partitions. The ceiling is suspended acoustical tile.

4. Openings:

   a. Doorways and doors: All doorways are of relatively recent vintage appropriate to their respective partitions.

   b. Windows: There are no window casings. Window openings are formed by the adjacent masonry.

5. Hardware: No known original hardware, other than window sash sash cords, pulleys, weights, and ornate lifta, is known to survive in the building.

6. Mechanical equipment:

   a. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation: The building is heated by steam radistors from a central heating plant (Building 227). There is no air conditioning. Ventilation is provided by opening the window sash.

   b. Lighting: Artificial illumination is by means of fluorescent electrical fixtures throughout the building. No evidence remains of original artificial lighting systems.

D. Site:

General setting and orientation: Connecting Bulding 60, which contains post restaurants, a museum, and an officer's club, on the west and Building 62, an administration building, on the east, the building is centered between Gillespie Avenue on the west and Second Avenue to the east and lies north of Rodman Avenue, the arsenal's principal street. To the north lies Building 63, a workshop inside a paved courtyard, north of which is North Avenue. The relatively level site slopes gently to the north.

Prepared by: David Arbogast
Architectural Conservator
February 1985

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Original Architectural Drawings:

Microfiche copies of the following drawings are on file at the Rock Island Arsenal Engineering Plans and Services Division:

Stone and Webster, "Cut Stone Details / Sheet No. 1 / North Elevation B-D Building," August 13, 1917, F64991, microfiche R20000375; shows original construction.

Stone and Webster, "Cut Stone Details / Sheet No. 2 / North Elevation B-D Building," n.d., microfiche R20000376; shows original construction.

Stone and Webster, "Second and Third Floor and Roof Plans / Bldg B-D," June 2, 1917, F50510, microfiche R20000377; shows original construction.

Stone and Webster, "Sketch Bsmt & First Floor Plans," June 19, 1917, microfiche R20000374; shows original construction.

Stone and Webster, "South Elevation of Bldg B-D," May 19, 1917, F50507, microfiche R20000380; shows original construction.

B. Early Views:

The picture collection of the Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office has a 1945 photograph documenting the original construction of the south facade. It is captioned "43-A / Looking north at 'B-D' Annex Building No. 61 / 19 March 1945" (see HAER Photo No. IL-20Q-3).

C. Interviews:

Robert Bouilly, Senior Historian, Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office, May 30, 1984; noted the reuse of stone from demolished portions of Shops B and D, and provided approximate date for alteration of north facade.

D. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Hess, Jeffrey A., and Mack, Robert C. "Historic Properties Report Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Illinois". Prepared by MacDonald and Mack Partnership, and Building Technology Incorporated for the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1985. The report, with accompanying inventory cards, is filed as field records in the Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress, under HAER No. IL-20.

Real Property Cards. Rock Island Arsenal Engineering Plans and Services Division. Briefly describes building's structural characteristics and maintenance history.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Completion Report Covering All Construction Projects Accomplished Under Supervision of the Construction Division, U.S. Army at Rock Island Arsenal. N. pl.: n. pub., 1922. Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office. Describes planning and construction of building.

War's Greatest Workshop Rock Island Arsenal. N. pl.: Arsenal Publishing Co. of the Tri-Cities, 1922. Rock Island Arsenal Historical Office. Describes planning and construction of the building.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was part of a program initiated through a memorandum of agreement between the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of the Army. Stanley J. Fried, Chief, Real Estate Branch of Heaquarters DARCOM, and Dr. Robert J. Kapsch, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record, were program directors. Sally Kress Tompkins of HABS/HAER was program manager, and Robie S. Lange of HABS/HAER was project manager. Building Technology Incorporated, Silver Spring, Maryland, under the

direction of William A. Brenner, acted as primary contractor, and MacDonald and Mack Partnership, Minneapolis, was a major subcontractor. The project included a survey of historic properties at Rock Island Arsenal, as well as preparation of an historic properties report and HABS/HAER documentation for 38 buildings. The survey, report, and documentation were completed by Jeffrey A. Hess, historian, Minneapolis; Barbara E. Hightower, historian, Minneapolis; David Arbogast, architectural historian, Iowa City, Iowa; and Robert C. Mack, architect, Minneapolis. The photographs were taken by Robert A. Ryan, J Ceronie, and Bruce A. Harms of Dennett, Muessig, Ryan, and Associates, Ltd., Iowa City, Iowa. Drawings were produced by John Palmer Low, Minneapolis.